

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for isolating mesenchymal stem cells from bone marrow aspirate, comprising:

(a) providing a cell mixture comprising mesenchymal stem cells and other cells;

(b) seeding and culturing the cell mixture in a culture device comprising an upper plate with pores and a lower plate base, said upper plate made of a mesenchymal stem cell adhering material with pores of about 0.4 to 40 microns in diameter, where mesenchymal stem cells adhere and are cultured, and the lower plate base, where small-sized cells adhere following passing through the pores in the upper plate, said culturing with medium containing factors that stimulate mesenchymal stem cells growth without differentiation and allow for the selective adherence of only the mesenchymal stem cells to the upper plate surface;

(c) purifying mesenchymal stem cells by removal of removing haematopoietic stem cells; and

(d) collecting mesenchymal stem cells from the upper plate by recovering with trypsin-EDTA.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cell mixture comprises mammalian mesenchymal stem cells.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cell mixture comprises human mesenchymal stem cells.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mesenchymal stem cells can differentiate into tissues comprising bone, adipose, or cartilage.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mesenchymal stem cells are characterized by CD34-.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the culture medium is 10% fetal bovine serum-supplemented Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 1 g/L of glucose.

12. (Withdrawn) An isolated mesenchymal stem cell recovered by the method as claimed in claim 1, which has the capability of self-renewal and pluripotent differentiation.

13. (Withdrawn) The mesenchymal stem cell as claimed in claim 12, which can differentiate into tissue comprising bone, adipose, or cartilage.

14. (Withdrawn) The mesenchymal stem cell as claimed in claim 12, which is characterized by CD34-.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising the mesenchymal stem cell as claimed in claim 12 and a culture medium, wherein the medium expands the mesenchymal stem cell.

16. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the mesenchymal stem cell is characterized by CD34-.

17. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the medium comprises DMEM-LG medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum.

18. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the mesenchymal stem cell as claimed in claim 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the mesenchymal stem cell is present in an amount sufficient to serve as tissue replacement or gene therapy for tissue damaged by age, trauma, and disease.

19. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 18, wherein the mesenchymal stem cell can differentiate into tissues comprising bone, adipose, or cartilage.

20. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising as claimed in claim 18, wherein

the mesenchymal stem cell is characterized by CD34-.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24-31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mesenchymal stem cell adhering material is plastic.

35. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mesenchymal stem cells cultured until confluence.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~35~~36, further comprising re-plating the cells to expand the mesenchymal stem cells at a density of  $4 \times 10^3$ - $10^4/\text{cm}^2$ .

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43 (new) The mesenchymal stem cells obtained by the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein cell populations having greater than 98% homogeneous mesenchymal stem cells.

44. (new) The mesenchymal stem cells obtained by the method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mesenchymal stem cells proliferate without differentiation and reach confluence after several passages.

45. (new) The mesenchymal stem cells obtained by the method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the mesenchymal stem cells proliferate without differentiation and reach confluence after 12 passages.